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than the color prints by Gaston Fandy Lescure. He has done, and done well, the conventional, atelier picturesque: she has done landscape of great charm and architecture and sculpture better than the best professional work. As for the simple record of a month's travel—it, too, is better than the best professional work. It appeals and allures. A good book this to read by the Christmas fire; but let none try it, at his peril, in February when the sap stirs in the bough, for then he must go to Brittany or break his heart.

Mr. Mempes's work, which began as Whistler—and—water, is by now so watered down as to afford of the other element rarely a trace. Sir Henry Blake, who supplies the text for this year's "China,"* would undoubtedly be very interesting in conversation, but he cannot impart his first-hand knowledge or impose his valuable opinions, because simply he does not know the trick of writing. A real regret touches the reader. That he should speak so wisely, though so ineffectually, on social conditions, the opium problem and the status of women. Yet, after all, he says but little. The pictures are pretty.

The oddest pickings lie side by side in the annual issue of the little Thumb-nail books. Plainly the series† expresses somebody's individual taste, which is no small virtue. The "Hymns" this year make a fitting mate for the "Pascal and Aurelius" of other seasons, a volume altogether satisfying, good to have in hand for long country walks or on a journey or in sickness. The introductory essay is unusual and very significant, in its grave clarity, its quiet and unpedantic competence, its cool and reticent appreciation. It is like morning wind or full daylight, and its quality is rare in this time of unction and effusion and smoky piety. The few paragraphs say so much that should be said and escape so much that is better unsaid. If it is typical of the American spirit, we cannot be too soon or too completely American.

* "China." By Mortimer Mempes. Text by Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G. London: Adam and Charles Black. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1909.

† "Great Hymns of the Middle Ages." Compiled by Eveline Warner Brainerd. New York: The Century Company, 1909.

For unknown reasons, no photograph has ever communicated the sense of a church interior, and few photographs have even essayed to present the life of streets and squares. Mr. Pennell, now with pen and now with brush, has recorded both, has done imperishable work in this great and beautiful volume on the French Cathedrals.* Mrs. Pennell's proper grace, the familiar charm of her sweetness and sincerity, make a fit setting, and more—a positive enhancement of the precious moment caught and fixed in black and white eternally. The *magnum opus*, perhaps, of the life of this exquisite draughtsman, it has certainly covered a big piece of his life, being eighteen years a-making, and recording between its ample covers all his experiments in many media and with many methods. And his blacks are so luminous, his lights so golden, his distances so enchanted!

Not new but so important an addition to the child's literature is this toy theatre† of Miss King's, with its instructions for making the marionettes and the theatre, its three rollicking comedies, two legends and two pantomimes, that no critic has a right to speak of the children's books without calling attention to it. The illustrations by Anna R. Giles are full of life, vivacity, fine fun, and the text has wit and literary grace unmatched by any book for children since Andersen himself talked to the children. It is nowise a book of the moment; it belongs to the history of children's literature.

This volume‡ likewise is one of the permanent contributions to the child's library. Now that the saints are no longer a sectarian monopoly, all little children may linger with delight on these charming rhymes of a whole alphabet of saints from Antony, Benedict, Christopher and Dominic down to Wilfred, Xystus, Yves and Zita. The make-up of the book is simplicity itself,

* "French Cathedrals, Monasteries and Abbeys and Sacred Sites of France." By Elizabeth Robins Pennell, illustrated by Joseph Pennell. New York: The Century Company, 1909.

† "Comedies and Legends for Marionettes." By Georgiana Goddard King. New York: The Macmillan Company.

‡ "An Alphabet of Saints." By Father Robert Hugh Benson, Reginald Balfour and S. C. Ritchie. Drawings by L. D. Symington. New York: Benziger Brothers.